clause (i) of Rule 11K of the Income-tax Rules with effect from 16-4-1993.

Waiving of overdrafts of Bihar Government

931. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has agreed to wipe out Rs. 210 crores overdraft of Bihar Government in view of the serious drought conditions in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) An overdraft of Rs. 203.79 crores appeared in the accounts of the State of Bihar with the Reserve Bank of India as on 10-4-1993. In order to help the State clear its overdraft, Government of India released Rs. 103 crores in advance out of May, 1993 entitlements of the State and also a ways and means advance of Rs. 50 crores as on 12-4-1993 and 13-4-1993 respectively. The balance of the overdraft was cleared by the State as on 13-4-1993 by their own efforts.

Resource scarcity with Customs on West Coast

932. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India, Bombay, of April 19, 1993, under the heading "Resource Scarcity Cause of ills";

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate vehicles and other facilities to apprehend smugglers and check smuggling of huge quantities of arms and explosives in West Coast are not available with the Customs;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action Government have taken to prevent and check smuggling of arms and explosives into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Government is aware of the news report published in Times of India, Bombay, of April 19, 1993, under the heading "Resource Scarcity Cause of ills".

(b) Anti-smuggling measures require deployment of requisite manpower with adequate arms, equipment, means of communication and effective mobility. The requirement of each of factors stated above is related to the means used by smugglers. The requirements of the Anti-smuggling agencies require continuous updating and strengthening.

There are occasions when need for major inputs is felt due to changed means of transport and communication used by smugglers.

Such requirements are studied and necessary equipment and means of quick transport like fast boats, more vehicles are made available to the anti-smuggling agencies.

However at times paucity of such necessary resources is felt and corrective steps in this direction taken on an urgent basis.

(c) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) In the wake of recent events the anti-smuggling agencies are being strengthened further by providing with additional equipment and vehicles|intercept boats.